

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/400,833
Reply to Office Action of May 29, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously amended): A workpiece-transfer device for loading a material workpiece in a workpiece-machining device and unloading a machined product workpiece from the workpiece-machining device, characterized in that the workpiece-transfer device includes a movement means with a rectangular coordinate system for moving a traveling body in a first horizontal direction along the direction in which the workpiece-machining device and a workpiece-storage device stand, said workpiece-machining device and said workpiece-storage device being in a line along said first direction with said workpiece-transfer device located in said line therebetween, as well as in a second horizontal direction orthogonal to the first horizontal direction and in that said traveling body includes a gripping means for gripping a material or product workpiece, wherein said workpiece-storage device includes a product-housing section arranged for stacking of machined product workpieces and a material-housing section arranged for stacking of material workpieces provided in parallel, on one side of said workpiece-machining device, in said second direction, and said traveling body is positionable above the product-housing section and the material-housing section of said workpiece-storage device.

Claim 2 (previously amended): A workpiece-transfer device as in Claim 1, characterized in that the entire length of the product and material-housing sections does not exceed the arrangement range of said workpiece-machining device along the second direction.

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Claim 3 (previously amended): A workpiece-transfer device as in Claim 1, characterized in that said rectangular coordinate system movement means can move said traveling body to said product and material-housing sections so that said traveling body can be moved to position and load a material workpiece gripped by the gripping means of said traveling body, relative to a positioning member of said workpiece-machining device.

Claims 4-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (previously added): A workpiece-transfer device as in Claim 1, characterized in that said workpiece-storage device includes a skeleton-housing section in parallel with said second direction and on a side of the material-housing section opposed to said product-housing section.